

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
3 January 1985

MONTPELIER, VT

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said Thursday he has officially decided to accept the No. 2 spot on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

He said his decision to become vice chairman of the committee that oversees the CIA will not interfere with his status as ranking member of the agriculture subcommittee which will write the 1985 Farm Bill.

And, Leahy said when his term on the intelligence committee ends in two years, he will automatically become ranking minority member or chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

"In a way, I feel as though I've been to Atlantic City and hit the jackpot," Leahy said.

While a vote by the full Senate later this month will make the selection official, Leahy said he would begin classified briefings Thursday.

He said the move would give him more influence on arms control and will further his efforts to compel the CIA to focus its activities on fighting terrorism.

He said he plans to split his working hours between the intelligence committee, the farm bill, and the federal budget, which he said he will watch in an effort to lessen the blow of budget cuts for Vermont.

Leahy, who succeeds Sen. Patrick Moynihan, D-NY, as vice chairman, was one of 18 Democrats considered for seats on the nine-member intelligence committee.